

COPY NO. 17

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
7 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Offshore Island Situation

General

25X1

A Peiping broadcast on 6 February accused US 7th Fleet aircraft of conduction "military provocations near Chinese waters which threaten the peace and security of China and the Far East." Another broadcast said that American assistance in the evacuation of Nationalist troops from the Tachens was "a criminal infringement upon China's sovereignty and intervention in China's internal affairs." The broadcasts give no indication as to whether or not Peiping intends to interfere with the evacuation.

PACOM Review Completed

25X1

Document No.	11
No Change in Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth.:	HR 70-2
Date:	17 July 78
By:	

25X1

Newspaper reports stated that Taipei was dejected at official confirmation of the Tachen withdrawal. The Nationalist government announced that troops evacuated from the Tachens would be redeployed to strengthen the defenses of other important islands such as Quemoy and the Matsus.

Weather

Weather will be generally favorable in the Formosa Straits area during the next 24 hours. Wind velocity will be from 8 to 16 knots with scattered clouds, visibility good except for night fog along the west coast of Formosa and the mainland coast.

Tachens

The first evacuation ship carrying 180 military personnel from the Tachens arrived at Keelung in Formosa on the morning of 7 February. [redacted] the evacuation was proceeding smoothly, with no sign of Communist planes. According to a CBS radio report, the ships of the US 7th Fleet have completed operations for the first day and have withdrawn to the sea for the night. 25X1

Chinese Communist naval vessels were reported near the Tachens up until the afternoon of 6 February. They disappeared from the Tachens about five hours prior to the arrival of the first elements of the US fleet.

Matsus

Negative.

Quemoys

Negative.

Prospects for a Cease-Fire

Moscow is now taking the lead in Communist maneuvers to arrange an international conference on the China situation and related issues outside the UN. The Communists apparently believe that such a conference, to include most or perhaps all of the Asian "neutrals," could be manipulated more easily than could a UN discussion. While the Communists would have little hope of inducing the US to modify its position as a result of such a conference, they presumably calculate that they could thereby advance their aim of worsening relations between the United States and its major allies and the "neutrals."

25X1

The Peiping People's Daily has reiterated, however, that Peiping would not participate in any conference in which the Nationalist government was represented and would reject any solution which called on Communist China to abandon its plan to "liberate" Formosa.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence